

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Alleged Transfer of Paramilitary
Bereitschaften to Greek Theater of War
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

Source offers the following comments on recurrent rumors that Soviet Zone paramilitary units have been detached for service in Albania.

1. No evidence has come to hand that such a move is even being contemplated, let alone has been effected. It must be doubted whether the transfer of paramilitary units out of Germany for service abroad could long remain a secret.
2. Source believes the paramilitary Bereitschaften in their present state of preparedness would not be suited for combat under the conditions prevailing in the Greek-Albanian border conflict.
3. With the qualifications made in paragraph 1, source would not rule out the military feasibility of using paramilitary personnel for guarding Albanian supply routes.
4. Source emphasizes that the low morale of the paramilitary personnel would almost exclude service outside of Germany. He believes German and Soviet officials in charge of paramilitary affairs are bound to be cognizant of this circumstance. Activist elements could, of course, be detached for service abroad, and would probably give a good account of themselves under combat conditions. Such a step, however, would strip existing paramilitary units and training cadres of the very elements which the eastern authorities hope can weld those units into reliable instruments. The rank and file of the paramilitary units, on the other hand, could at best be relied upon to fight in Germany to restore "law and order". They could hardly be relied upon to fight outside of Germany for a cause of which they would have but a nebulous notion. He points out that veterans of the German army are tired of war, as illustrated by the near mutiny in some Saxon paramilitary units on being ordered to unload arms consigned to them. Source's opinion is that it would be an extremely risky undertaking to coerce paramilitary units into military service outside of Germany, and a move which might call forth serious political repercussions.

Document No. 2

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